

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 1571 - HB 2156**

March 6, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes payment up to \$500 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) for the cost of forensic sexual assault examinations not paid by insurance.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**


**Increase State Expenditures – \$238,000 / Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund**

Assumptions:

- There are no reliable data on who currently pays for these examinations. Costs are paid by rape crisis centers, child advocacy centers, local law enforcement, absorbed by hospitals, or borne by victims. A portion of these costs will shift to the CICF.
- The CICF requires as a condition of eligibility, among other things, that the victim cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutors. Due to some non-reporting and the cooperation limitation, approximately 55 percent of sexual assault victims would qualify for payments from the CICF. Of this number, a portion will have their costs paid through insurance or other sources. According to the State Treasurer's Office, costs to the CICF will increase \$237,500.
- The federal Stop Violence Against Women Act requires each state to ensure that the victim does not incur any out-of-pocket cost of examinations by January 1, 2009. This bill does not require Tennessee to come into full compliance.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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